

PATSY GUYER

When I arrived in Washington in November 1972, I was taken in tow by Bill Cochran of the Rules Committee, who gave me invaluable assistance and counsel in setting up my office. Like most new Senators, I was short-handed and uncertain about the best way to staff my office and deal with the avalanche of mail, telephone calls, and visitors. Bill mentioned to me that he knew of a young woman, Patsy Guyer, who had worked with him on the staff of Senator B. Everett Jordan of North Carolina, and who was available and was a prodigious worker. She was quickly hired, and I don't think her output has slowed one iota over the 24 years she has been on my staff. As my executive assistant, Patsy has handled a huge array of responsibilities over the years, ranging from supervising State offices to managing summer interns, to creating and overseeing an exceptionally efficient mail operation.

But if Patsy should be singled out for anything, it is her management and deep personal commitment to a case work operation that is unmatched in the volume and quality of service it has rendered to countless thousands of Louisianians in need. I am very proud of the aid my office has given over the years to people who had nowhere else to turn, whether it was securing a visa, locating a loved one, or breaking an impasse on a disability payment or a VA widow's benefits.

We were able to be effective principally because Patsy Guyer has an astounding network of friends and colleagues throughout the Congress and among Federal agencies and, most of all, because she greeted every case, no matter how routine, with the enthusiasm and commitment she brought to her first day on the job in November of 1972. Whether the challenge was to bring home from Abu Dhabi a tragically injured Louisiana businessman, locate a missing child in a Rwandan refugee camp or organize a food airlift to Cambodia, we always knew Patsy would have the ingenuity and contacts to start the process and the absolutely iron-willed determination and dedication to see it through to completion. I have never known a more selfless and giving individual, and I know I speak for untold thousands in Louisiana in expressing deep gratitude for the extraordinary service that this loyal daughter of North Carolina has rendered to Louisiana and our country.

BECKY PUTENS

Mr. President, as many Senators know, Becky Putens has been my personal secretary for the last 18 years. While that is her title, it hardly does justice to the multitude of roles that she has had to play in that time. She has been my gatekeeper, my scheduler, my right-hand person; she keeps track of where I need to be, arranges how I will get there, and generally has acted as a buffer between me and the enormous number of outside demands on my time and attention that go along

with being a Senator. Most of all, though, Becky Putens is a fixer: she takes care of problems, from the routine to the seemingly insurmountable, with an aplomb and calmness that is remarkable, and that has, in countless large and small ways, made my time as a Senator more effective, more efficient, and generally more fun.

As my colleagues and her peers—a group of Senators' personal secretaries who call themselves the Senior Babes—can attest, the small area just outside a Senator's personal office often takes on the aspect of Grand Central Station at rush hour. Becky is the person who keeps it all together and running smoothly. Through it all, and maybe because of it all, Becky displays a sense of humor and a way with people and with words that is legendary among many of the longtime staff and Senators. For someone in a position that is always demanding and often thankless, such an attitude and outlook is almost a requirement, and for me it has often served to make even the most tiring and demanding days and nights in the Senate bearable.

But, to me, the most fundamental aspect of Becky's personality is her unquestioning dedication. Whatever the circumstances, however late or early, on weekends or during vacations, if I am there, Becky is there; if I am under the gun, Becky is at my side. In short, in a field of endeavor where loyalty is an often-invoked but seldom-realized ideal, Becky personifies it. I am grateful for her service.

ERIC SILAGY

Mr. President, Eric Silagy has managed to pack more achievements into his brief career than any young man I know. He came to my office in 1987, fresh out of the University of Texas. In less than 2 years, he was chief scheduler for a Senate campaign that was as politically significant and hard fought as any in this century. His intelligence, good judgment and youthful energy were important factors in our victory. For the next 4 years, he served as my legislative assistant while attending Georgetown University Law School, performing superbly in both capacities. Since 1994, he has been my administrative assistant and chief of staff. Thanks to his excellent organizational skills and his tact and good humor, it is an office that has been a productive workplace for a happy, hardworking, and extremely talented staff.

Just as important to me as his skill in running the office, however, has been his remarkable political and policy judgment, which I rely upon in making all the most crucial decisions that come before me; and his extraordinary effectiveness in getting the job done, no matter what the odds against it. Once a legislative goal has been targeted, there is very little that can stand in the way of Eric's efforts to achieve it. In short, while some divide the world into thinkers and doers, Eric Silagy manages to combine the best aspects of both. I want to express my

gratitude for his diligence and devotion, and commend him for a job well done.●

VERMONT'S GREEN MOUNTAIN POWER CORP. WINS DISTINGUISHED AWARD

● Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I would like to rise today in recognition of the Green Mountain Power Corp. Green Mountain Power [GMP] was recently honored with the Edison Electric Institute Common Goals Special Distinction Award for energy efficiency.

Douglas Hyde, GMP president and CEO, and a close friend of mine, was in Washington to accept the award which recognizes GMP's work as a part of EVERmont. A public-private partnership, EVERmont was formed to test and improve the winter performance of electric vehicles, or EV's. EV's provide clean, quiet, and environmentally sound transportation. For this service, we commend Green Mountain Power and EVERmont and congratulate them on winning the EEI Common Goals Award.●

SATISFYING THE HUNGER FOR READING

● Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, encouraging strong reading habits in schoolchildren is a goal that we all share. Reading skills are a core element of the National Education Goals, and literacy is the subject of a new Presidential initiative.

To highlight the importance of reading, I would like to take a brief moment to describe the achievements of an innovative program at a very special school in New Mexico that I believe captures what we should all be trying to do to promote reading.

This fall, the lunch period at Dolores Gonzales Elementary School in Albuquerque will be satisfying a different kind of appetite: A hunger for reading. Thanks to their Join-a-School Partners—Sunwest Bank, Bueno Foods, the Albuquerque Zoological Park, and community members—more than 50 students at Dolores Gonzales Elementary will have a partner to read with under a pilot program which I helped initiate at the school last spring.

The Read-Write-Now program pairs an adult volunteer with a student from Dolores Gonzales for reading. The program has grown from a dozen or so volunteers last spring to more than 50 this fall. I commend principal Dora Ortiz and her dedicated staff and teachers for fostering the Read-Write-Now program at their school.

I borrowed the idea from a similar program which originated in New York City. Volunteers pledge 1 lunch hour a week for the entire semester to read with the children. This one-on-one approach helps the children develop their reading ability and love of books, as well as make a new friend. It is impossible to overestimate the value of this